



*United States Attorney
Southern District of New York*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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PRESS ADVISORY

Weed & Seed, the federally funded strategy which aims to prevent, control and reduce violent crime, drug abuse and gang activity in targeted high-crime neighborhoods across the country, is hosting a recognition ceremony for the support and commitment given by law enforcement and community workers to Mott Haven in the South Bronx.

The event starts at 12:30 P.M. on Friday, April 29, 2005, at SoBRO, 555 Bergen Avenue, Bronx, New York. (SoBRO is the South Bronx Overall Economic Development Corporation.) Awards will be given out by a representative from the U.S. Attorney's Office to, among others, the FBI and 40th Precinct law enforcement officers whose efforts resulted in the federal indictment last month of 43 members and associates of the violent gang Hellbound, which operated drug markets within the Mitchel Houses Project in Mott Haven.

Weed & Seed involves a two-pronged approach: law enforcement agencies and prosecutors cooperate in "weeding out" criminals who participate in violent crime and drug abuse, attempting to prevent their return to the targeted area; and "seeding" brings human services to the area, encompassing prevention, intervention, treatment, and neighborhood revitalization. Through the federally funded Project Safe Neighborhoods, Mott Haven Weed & Seed also works with its federal partners to reduce gun crimes through federal prosecutions and community outreach efforts which focus on the consequence of gun violence.

(Directions: 145th Street Bridge to 149th Street, Right onto Bergen Avenue, Parking on the Right at SoBRO headquarters.)

